



THE PALMYRA CIRCLE

P

No. 41 1948

December 25, 1948.

EDITORIAL

I wish to express my thanks to all the people who have assisted me in publishing the Palmyra Circle during the past year. Mrs. George Avery and Mrs. Robert Steed for their help in making the master copies, Station Manager, Bob Hall, for his moral support and the information on the planes and shipping. Howard Mooney, for the special story he found and gave me. Fred Sherman for the construction news, and to many others for their tips on this and that.

I want to extend my best wishes for a Very Merry Christmas to all personnel on Palmyra Island as well as our friends who have been transferred to Alaska, Honolulu, Midway, Wake, Guam, the Philippines and the other islands of the Pacific.

Otto H. Hornum Jr.

MERRY XMAS
TO ALL

When the MC 65 came in the last trip from Honolulu there was special box in the cargo. Knowing the long distance that Santa Claus has to travel and the many stops he has to make before getting to Palmyra, His Nephews, the Engineering and Construction section of the Honolulu office, sent down the special box of toys for the children on Palmyra.

In behalf of the station manager and the families of Palmyra, I wish to extend our Sincere Thanks and Best wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Misters J.C.Ireton, D.B.Lyman, J.V.Hodges, L.L.Shaler, L.B.Kirk and H.N.Slate.

MAHALO NUI LOA.

Palmyra families to be guests of the Station Manager, at Christmas Day dinner. Mr. Hall has sent out invitations to the families inviting them to be his guests for the Christmas dinner, to be held in the Hotel Dining Room at 12:00 noon, Christmas day.

PALMYRA HOTEL

CHRISTMAS DINNER 1948

Green Olives	Ripe Olives
Assorted Pickles	
Fruit Cocktail	
Cream of Turkey Soup	
Stuffed Roast Mount Vernon Turkey with Cranberry Sauce	Giblet Gravy
Baked York Ham with Raisin Sauce	
Mashed Potatoes	Candied Sweet Potatoes
Fresh Garden Peas	Buttered Corn
Waldorf Salad	
Pumpkin Pie	Apple Pie
Ice Cream	
Vanilla Wafers	Mixed Nuts
Hot Rolls	American Cheese Crackers
Coffee	Cold Drink

Editor turns Scientist, discovers electricity in air over Palmyra.

The other night one of his radio antennas fell to the ground and was not discovered until the next day. When he started to use his meter to check the lead-in the needle started to quiver so he took a voltage reading. The meter said 50 volts. That is funny he thought, so he tried a small lamp and the filament got hot enough to be seen. The wire was disconnected from the set and there was still power from the antenna. The wire was then cut off outside the quonset hut and there was still power to each of the circuits in the house were checked until it was found that the second antenna was directly grounded and that the power was coming from a new noise eliminator. Another dream of power from the air bubble busted.

There was so much comment about the story last week where it was mentioned that a certain lady was expecting. She SURE IS, she is expecting a lot better present from her husband next year. It seems that between the shipping strike and the late Xmas Mail, she didn't get what she was EXPECTING. There AIN'T NO STORK flying over her house.

There was quite a nice turnout for the anything can happen movie last Saturday night. Because there was a plane due in that evening quite a number of people were unable attend, so the same show will be given again for the benefit of those who did not see it the first time. The date will be announced early next month.

The special Children's movie Wednesday evening was such a success, that the editor is planning to have at least one special children's show each month until we start getting regular movies on the station.

Printing Troubles

If your copy of the paper, does not have any poles on the counterpoises, over the range station on Home Island, don't blame the ink. Because of the large number of paper printed this issue, no water was used on the gelatin soften the inks. We regret having to do this on the first printing of the cover.

PLEASE

Please do not remove any of the Christmas Cards that have been placed on the Hotel bulletin board. They were loaned by the recipients so that others might also enjoy seeing them, also learn that we have not been forgotten by the senders, who were once Palmyra residents.

THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR SENDS SPECIAL MESSAGE TO PALMYRA RESIDENTS

It is a privilege to be invited to contribute to the Palmyra Circle, although I hesitate to write for "local consumption" on the basis of impressions gathered from only occasional visits to this tropic island. It is a pleasure, however, to note the progress you have made at Palmyra during the past year in spite of all the handicaps under which you have worked.

I cannot promise that we in Honolulu will correct all the deficiencies attendant upon Island duty. We will help to the extent of our ability to plan, to allot available funds to the best advantage and to support you in every way possible, but the real improvements can only be made by you who are on Palmyra. With your continued efforts I am sure the coming year will bring even more progress than has so far been made, but simply on the basis of your accomplishments to date the entire staff of the Regional Office joins me in extending congratulations, and our sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(signed) J.M. Beardslee

A MESSAGE AND A THOUGHT FROM THE STATION MANAGER

During this season of the year, it would seem appropriate for all of us to relax a short while from the toils of our daily lives and give thanks for being able to observe Christmas as free men, women and children, unhampered, by ruthless restrictions which plague so many peoples of other countries at the present time. We should stand in humility and gratitude before the One who made this possible. During the past year, many of us have suffered deprivations, in some way or another, but we still have everything else for which to be thankful.

It is my sincere wish that this Christmas will prove to be a very happy one for each and every one of you and that the coming year will be the most prosperous you have ever experienced. May God bless you, one and all.

(signed) Robert L. Hall

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS, PALMYRA STATION

At no other time except Christmas is the feeling of warmth and general good will to all so apparent.

To everyone the personnel of the National Bureau of Standards on Palmyra extends sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(signed) Stephen S. Barnes

Palmyra Report

There have been so many requests for a report on the Vital Statistics and Palmyra census, that we feel this issue should have a full report on the islands, for the information of the residents as well as those who were once residents here.

The year of 1948 was year of progress on Palmyra. The apartments were completed and the families moved from Menge Island. The new antenna farms were installed, a new power line was put up between the power house and the new transmitter building on Menge Island, in the other direction it went as far as the tennis court on Cooper Island. At this point underground cable was laid to the Ionisphere station and to the hanger and new control building. This underground cable also supplies the four quonset huts of Hangerville and the fresh water pumps at this end of the

island.

A 20 year lease was signed with the owners of Palmyra, the Pullard Lee family, for the land being used by GAA.

Bureau of Standards Housing units being constructed on the hanger side of the theatre building.

War time plane revetments, removed from in front of hotel, giving clear view of the runway

Since July 1st an average of ten planes per month landed on the Palmyra Air strip. There was a total of 54, two of which were Pan American and two British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines.

The number of Army P.S. boats calling here has dropped considerably since the Army moved off Christmas Island. Other shipping included Navy tankers, L.C.Ms. The U.S. Coast Guard. The boat purchased by the Samoan people, a yacht

(continued on page 4)

Palmyra Report continued.

making a world cruise, a small boat with three men on board, on a south seas trip. Several fishing boats under charter to the U.S. Government on fish surveys.

Neil Ackland, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, visits Palmyra on school survey. The school teacher is to arrive here on the second trip of NC 65 in January 1949.

Vital Statistics

Births- none
Deaths- none
Marriages- none
Arrivals- many new families with children
Departures-many transfers and contracts PAU.

The population as of December 24th, 1948,
On the payroll CAA & Bureau of Standards,
60 men 1 woman
Dependants
15 wives 18 children

TOTAL 94

The above figures include 18 men on the construction crew and five men on the traveling installation crew. The figures do not include residents who are on leave or visiting in Honolulu.

The July 30th Vital Statistics were
on the payroll 80 men 2 women
dependants 10 wives 10 children
TOTAL 102

The rainfall for the year up to December 23rd totaled 160.48 inches. January was the high month with 27.97 inches and July came second with 25.97 inches.

November had the lowest rainfall with only 5.95 inches. Only 7.10 inches of rain had fallen on the island up to the 23rd. of this month.

HAM RADIO has fallen off a little due to the transfer of Bill Dirks to Hilo and Bill Fells leaving the Bureau of Standards. He is back on the island with the installation crew for CAA and is operating a portable on a limited scale. There are a number of other hams in the apartments who hope to be operating soon. Charlie Snyder, our new MFIC has not set up his rig as yet. Steve Barnes has a new signal squirter and is anxiously waiting for the new house to be completed so that he can move in and hook onto it.

Jim Francis, of the Hawaiian Tuna Packers was down here this year checking fish, and now the boys are really going to town with their fishing. Hardly a night goes by without at least three of them being on the reef at one point or another. The most of them have poles and larger reels, which may account

for the large fish that they have been getting.

The Palmyra Community Christmas Tree party was held in the theatre building Thursday evening. Mrs. Keith Cornell and Mrs. Roy Redd, both worked hard in making it a success. They were responsible for all of the decorations and one of the most important things which was sewing AND the sewing of a lot of red cloth with white trimmings. Roy Red and Keith Cornell set up the fire place on the stage and were assisted by several of the other men.

Roy Redd, our official plane parker, was waiting on the library roof for Santa's plane to come in and did a nice job. It was too bad that he was not able to see Santa Claus give out the toys, but some one had to guard the plane while it was on the roof. THANKS Roy for a wonderful job.

Prior to Santa's arrival Christmas Carols were sung by everyone. After the party, there was no doubt in anyone's mind about there being a Santa Claus.

For the information of the families, the presents that had cards, from C and E Hon., which was the abbreviation used for Santa's Nephews in the Honolulu office.

Gentlemen, we want to thank you again for your thinking of the children on Palmyra. The toys were wrapped by several of the women whose presents failed to arrive in the last mails.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

Late News Special.

KP6AA via KH6CS

December 24th

Margaret E Hill of Prescott Arizona selected as Palmyra Teacher, from fourteen applicants. Twenty Years experience Arizona Oahu and Maui. At present teaching on Maui. To arrive Palmyra January 29th.

After the Christmas Party, Mr. Barnes told the editor that after receiving the above message he was able to talk to Mr. Ackland who reported that Miss. Hill had also taught on Lanai and had considerable experience teaching in the rural and outside islands. The school books are on the way and should be here soon.

In a few more weeks we will be able to put the capital "T" in the Palmyra P.T.A.

Thursday evening the dispatch came in regarding the 25 percent a lot of people were worried about loosing. The message is on the file, on the bulletin board in the hotel lobby, so we will not repeat it here.